

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin



December 2017 – January 2018  
Staff Report

## Contents

ORDERS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD .....	3
POLICY MEETINGS.....	3
NEW RIVER POLLUTION .....	3
<b>TMDL/BASIN PLANNING UNIT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NPDES UNIT ACTIVITIES UPDATES .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>REGULATORY AND LAND DISPOSAL UNIT .....</b>	<b>9</b>
SALTON SEA AND SWAMP PROGRAMS .....	10
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) & SITE CLEANUP PROGRAMS.....	11
ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES .....	12

## Regional Water Board (RWB) Staff Report

### ORDERS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

**January 25, 2018**—The Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued a Water Quality Certifications Order for Coachella Valley Water District for its Highway 86 Domestic Water Transmission Main Phase 2 and Pump Station Project. The Project's objective is to increase the supply of domestic water to the communities of Salton Sea Beach, Desert Shores, and Salton City, as well as to several unincorporated communities in Riverside and Imperial Counties, through the construction of a 7-mile domestic water transmission pipeline and pump station. The Project will also consolidate CVWD's Improvement District No. 11 (ID11) public water system with CVWD's Cove Community public water system. [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, PhD, P.E.*]

### POLICY MEETINGS

**Project Eagle**—The Project consists of a proposed solar panel manufacturing facility. The Imperial Valley is competing with three other states to have the facility built in the Valley. In December 2017 and January 2018, the Executive Officer participated in meetings, including meetings in Imperial Valley and Los Angeles, regarding the subject Project to provide regulatory guidance on waste discharge requirements for the Project. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

**Niland Sanitary District**— The Imperial County LAFCO has recommended the dissolution of the District because, among other factors, the District lacks the institutional capacity to operate the District sewage collection and wastewater treatment system for Niland. During December 2017 and January 2018, the Executive Officer has participated in various teleconferences and meetings with Imperial County staff to discuss the status of the formation of a new sewerage agency for Niland and the District's status of compliance with the Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) the Regional Water Board assessed against the District in March 2017. On January 22, 2018, Imperial County staff reported that it has completed a new sewer rate study for the District, and that it would be presenting the results of the study to community members on January 31, 2018. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

**Management Coordinating Committee (MCC) Meetings**—Jose L. Angel, Executive Officer participated in the January 30 and 31, 2017, MCC meeting, which was held in Riverside. Key issues discussed during the meeting included status of vacancies, recommendations for FY 2018-2019 discretionary contracts funding, litigation, Water Boards contract process, the Water Boards Performance Reports for SFY 2016-2017, and Harmful Algal Blooms. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

**Meeting with new Regional Water Board Counsel**—Ms. Katharine Buddingh from the Office of the Chief Counsel has been assigned as the new attorney for the Regional Water Board. Ms. Buddingh visited the office on January 3 and 4, 2018, to meet staff and discuss with Program Managers key regional projects and issues that require her advice. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

### NEW RIVER POLLUTION

**New River Improvement Project, Calexico Phase 1**—The Executive Officer, Assistant Executive Officer, CalEPA Assistant Secretary Alejandro Rodarte, and Danielle Knaus from the State Water Board recommended that Michael Baker International (MBI) be awarded the \$1.4M

Engineering Services Contract to prepare the environmental documentation and design the proposed trash screen, conveyance system, and pump-back system for the New River in the Calexico area. The State Water Board reports that it has awarded the contract to MBI. The contract is currently being executed so that MBI can commence work on February 27, 2018. Plans, specifications, and the environmental documentation for the Calexico Phase I are expected to be delivered by August 2018. Regional Water Board staff is also working with CalEPA staff to identify and secure funding for Phase II of the project, which consists of the construction of the proposed infrastructure. [*Frank Gonzalez, AEO, P.E.*]

**New River Pollution from Mexico**—On December 27, 2017, USEPA reported that it authorized the purchase of the additional equipment for CESPMS to prevent bypasses of raw sewage into the New River in Mexicali, from the \$96,000 remainder of the most recent [binational] infrastructure project in Mexicali. Regional Water Board Chair Wright's January 12, 2018, letter thanked USEPA for its continued support to address the threats of bypasses of raw sewage into the New River. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

## **TMDL/BASIN PLANNING UNIT**

(Unit Chief, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior ES)

### **PROJECTS**

#### **Salton Sea Basin Plan Amendment - [Maria Davydova, ES]**

Staff prepared draft documents for the amendment, including Draft Staff Report, Amendment and Resolution. The documents are currently in the internal review process. The administrative amendment will update Salton Sea language in the Basin Plan, as well as address other errors and typos throughout the document

#### **2017 Triennial Review - [Maria Davydova, ES]**

Staff is preparing the Administrative Record for the Triennial Review for submission to SWRCB and USEPA.

#### **Imperial Valley Selenium Study Work Plan and QAPP Review – [Logan Raub, ES]**

On January 22, 2018, RWB EO sent a letter to IID approving the Work plan and requiring revisions to the QAPP. The work should begin in the first or second quarter of 2018.

#### **Palo Verde Agricultural General Order – [Francisco Costa, ES]**

Staff is revising the draft Order to address legal review comments.

#### **2018 Integrated Report – [Rosalyn Fleming, WRCE]**

Staff is drafting the 2018 Integrated Report. Staff plans to present the draft Integrated Report to the RWB for consideration of adoption in September 2018.

- December 14, 2017 - Staff called in the Integrated Report State Round Table Meeting. Attendees discussed surface waters, beneficial uses, pollutants, water quality objectives, and lines of evidence for determining the condition of the State's surface waters. Staff has been assisting State Board staff in setting up a program to generate some of the lines of evidence electronically. RELEP is an "R" programming language Electronic Line of Evidence Program. It requires staff to have extensive knowledge and expertise regarding our surface waters, beneficial uses, pollutants, and water quality objectives through research for data input. Staff has been reviewing and providing thousands of

cells of data regarding the latter to ready the program for output for the 2018 Integrated Report.

- January 18, 2018 – Staff attended the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) State Round Table Meeting. Attendees discussed the CEDEN / Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Modernization Project, data availability, and quality assurance. The data exchange network accepts data from various available sources. It received the data in established formats to assure consistency and comparability. The CEDEN User Group has developed a process for modifying the data entry format to accommodate changes in data use. The formats can be reviewed at [http://ceden.org/ceden\\_datatemplates.shtml](http://ceden.org/ceden_datatemplates.shtml). A solicitation for proposing changes to these established formats was sent on January 30, 2018. Proposals are to include the change, the reason it is needed, and be submitted to [ceden@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ceden@waterboards.ca.gov) by March 2, 2018.
- January 22 and 23, 2018 – Staff attended the Integrated Report lines of evidence training. State Board's Water Quality Assessment Unit staff conducted the 2-day training at the Region 1 office in Santa Rosa. The training prepared staff to write manual lines of evidence and review RELEP electronic lines of evidence. It included 'hands-on' and web access training. Attendees learned how RELEP generates lines of evidence for different types of pollutants, to review RELEP outputs, and to perform quality assurance.

#### **Implementation of Coachella and Imperial Agricultural Conditional Waivers – [Jennie Snyder, WRCE]**

Staff responded to inquiries from stakeholders in Coachella and Imperial Valley that received enforcement letters continued through December 2017. Staff compiled the results of the enforcement letter mail out. The Imperial County Farm Bureau (ICFB) Coalition reported that they got satisfactory responses from 241 of the 410 letter recipients. Responses received by the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (CVILC) are still being compiled. Staff is working with the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) to confirm or update the addresses of the returned letters.

#### **Monitoring New River at the International Boundary – [Logan Raub ES]**

These are monthly sampling events. Sampling equipment, bottles, chain of custody forms, and Water Quality Reports are prepared by Logan Raub. The Water Quality Reports are posted on our web page at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water\\_issues/programs/new\\_river/dataindex.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/new_river/dataindex.html)

- December 6, 2017- Maria Davydova and Jose Figueroa collected water sample from the New River at the International Boundary.
- January 10, 2018 - Kola Olatunbosun and Jose Figueroa collected water sample from the New River at the International Boundary.

#### **Environmental Justice (EJ) – [Maria Davydova, ES]**

- December 7, 2017- Staff called in the monthly interagency CalEPA EJ Liaisons meeting to discuss EJ activities across all BDOs.
- December 13, 2017- Staff attended and helped plan the Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force meeting in Indio, which was a combined IVAN meeting for the months of November and December. Staff coordinated with presenters from CalEPA, DPR and IQ Air in preparation for the meeting. Presentations can be found [here](#).
- January 19, 2018 - Staff called in the monthly EJ meeting planning with South Coast AQMD and Comite Civico del Valle and participated in planning a joint meeting in

February between the Coachella Valley EJ Enforcement Task Force and AQMD in their annual outreach to EJ communities.

- January 24, 2018 - Staff attended and helped plan the Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force meeting in Indio. Riverside County's Ag. Commissioner Ruben Arroyo gave a presentation about his office's roles and responsibilities. The presentation can be found [here](#).
- January 25, 2018 - Staff called in the CalEPA EJ Liaisons Meeting to discuss EJ activities across all BDOs.

## **ROUNDTABLES AND MEETINGS**

**Non-Point Source (NPS) Roundtable** (Teleconference) - December 6, 2017 [Francisco Costa]  
Issues discussed during this teleconference roundtable included: a) 2018 Request for Proposals (RFP), b) 2017 Grant agreement execution status update, c) Post-fire recovery planning, d) Next NPS Workplan; and e) NPS Role in CWA 303(d) Vision

**NPS Roundtable** (Teleconference) – January 10, 2018 [Francisco Costa]  
Issues discussed during this teleconference roundtable included: a) 2018 Request for Proposals (RFP) happening now with proposals due February 8; and b) 2017 grant agreement execution status update.

**Basin Planning Roundtable** (Teleconference) - January 17, 2018 – [Maria Davydova]  
Staff participated in the quarterly Basin Planning Roundtable meeting. Office of Public Participation joined the meeting to talk about the new Tribal Beneficial Uses; OPP staff urged all regions to reach out to local tribal governments early in their triennial review process to discuss the BU's. (Note that formal tribal consultation is not required for the triennial review process).

**Basin Planning Triennial Review Wiki Subcommittee** (Teleconference) - January 24, 2018 – [Maria Davydova]

The subcommittee was formed during the October Roundtable meeting, when staff pointed out that the Basin Planning wiki lacks a page for Triennial Reviews. Staff participated in the subcommittee call to discuss the new wiki page and contributed material to the draft.

**Irrigated Lands Roundtable** (Palm Desert) – January 24-25, 2018 – [Logan Raub, Francisco Costa, Jennie Snyder, and Nadim Shukry-Zeywar]

**On January 24, 2018**, the RT took a field trip to the Salton Sea to be informed about the conditions and restoration activities. **On January 25, 2018**, the RT met in our office and the main topics were: a) California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) staffs presented an overview of the Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP), and Outreach & Education; and b) ILRP managers and staff shared information on programmatic development, implementation, and enforcement issues.

**TMDL Roundtable** (Teleconference) – January 30, 2018 [Nadim Shukry-Zeywar]  
Main issues discussed during this teleconference roundtable included: a) 2018-2019 Workplan b) Stormwater requirements I TMDLs; and OWTP

**TMDL Roundtable (Sacramento)** – February 21-22, 2018 [Nadim Shukry-Zeywar]

**Basin Planning Roundtable** (San Luis Obispo) – April 18-19, 2018 – [Maria Davydova and Nadim Shukry-Zeywar]]

## **TRAINING**

GIS Data Collection with GPS devices (UC Riverside Extension) - Fall 2017- [Maria Davydova]

Toxicity Training (San Diego) - December 7, 2017 - [Rosalyn Fleming]  
Coaching and Mentoring Training (Sacramento) – March 6, 2018 - [Nadim Shukry-Zeywar]  
Building Resilience Training (Sacramento) – March 22, 2018 - [Nadim Shukry-Zeywar]  
Team Leadership Training (Riverside) - March 28, 2018 - [Nadim Shukry-Zeywar]  
Emotional Intelligence Training (Sacramento) – April 26, 2018 – [Nadim Shukry-Zeywar]  
Ongoing – GIS Specialization, online courses by UC Davis Extension - [Maria Davydova]

## **NPDES UNIT ACTIVITIES UPDATES**

(Unit Chief, Kai Dunn, Senior WRC Engineer)

### **MS4 Phase I Permit Renewal** (Jeong-Hee Lim and Kai Dunn)

A Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) serving a population of 10,000 or more is required to have a Phase I NPDES MS4 Permit. There is one MS4 Phase I permit with 13 permittees (10 cities, two special Districts and one County) in Colorado River Basin Water Board (Regional Water Board) jurisdictional area. The current permit will be expired on June 19, 2018. On December 11, 2017, Regional Water Board staff had a conference call with Principal Permittees, County of Riverside (County) and Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD), to discuss permit renewal process, issues on permit renewal such as Trash Amendment, and priorities of Regional Water Board and USEPA on permit renewal. The Permittees have submitted their Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to renew their MS4 Phase I Permit on December 22, 2017.

### **Pre-requirement Inspections for NPDES Permit Renewal** (Jeong-Hee Lim and Kai Dunn)

A site visit of an NPDES facility prior to permit renewal to observe operations and collect additional data to develop permit limitations and requirements for waste discharge is called pre-requirement inspection. Two pre-requirement inspections were conducted by USEPA contractor and Regional Water Board staff (inspection team) on January 9, 2018. Both of the NPDES facilities inspected on January 9, 2018, Country Life Mobile Home Park and Date Gardens Mobile Home Park, are privately owned treatment works with package plants. Inspection team reviewed permit required documents and records, and walked through the facility to view unit processes, effluent and receiving water monitoring locations, and the discharge location.

### **Pretreatment Compliance Inspections** (Kai Dunn and Jeong-Hee Lim)

The practice of removing pollutants from industrial and commercial wastewater before they are discharged into municipal sewage treatment system is known as “pretreatment.” Three onsite Pretreatment Compliance inspections for NPDES facilities were conducted by USEPA contractor and Regional Water Board staff (inspection team) during January 9 and 11, 2018.

On January 9, Program Needs Assessment was conducted for Coachella Sanitary District without formally approved program. Inspection team reviewed city's Sewer Use Ordinance section which address waste discharges by non-residential users, Local Limits Evaluation Report, and Enforcement Response Plan. Inspection team also inspected a restaurant for its implementation of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) program to reduce discharge of oil and grease to the wastewater treatment plant.

On January 10, inspection team conducted a formal Pretreatment Compliance Inspection (PCI) of the City of Brawley's formally approved pretreatment program. The following documents were reviewed during the PCI: Sewer Use Ordinance, Local Limits, Enforcement Response Plan, NPDES permit, most recent Pretreatment Program Annual Report, most recent significant noncompliance publication, and significant industrial user (SIU) files. There are two SICs in the program given local limits: 1) Beef Packing Plant and 2) Hospital. Inspection team also



inspected the two facilities for the implementation of FOG program and monitoring reporting program.

On January 11, Program Needs Assessment was conducted for the City of Holtville without formally approved program. Inspection team reviewed city's Sewer Use Ordinance section, Local Limits, and Enforcement Response Plan. Inspection team also inspected three facilities: 1) a restaurant for its FOG program; 2) a dentist office for the upcoming EPA dental Effluent Guideline to reduce discharges of mercury; and 3) a produce cooling facility for its FOG program and cleaning process.

#### **401 Water Quality Certification (Kai Dunn and Juan Lezo)**

The following table shows all of the Certifications that the Colorado River Basin Office from December 2017 to January 2018

<b>Notification Date</b>	<b>Orders Issued/Denied</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>WDID#</b>
<u>1/18/2018</u>	In review process	Caltrans	Imperial 78 Culvert Project	7B333020001
<u>1/8/2018</u>	In review process	Energy Cloud Co.	Needles Business Complex TPM 19848 Arizona Crossing Project	7B363039001
<u>1/5/2018</u>	In review process	Banning Wilson 97, LLC	TM 36939 Project	7A333184001
<u>12/12/2017</u>	In review process	Pardee Homes	Phase 1 Butterfield Specific Plan Project (Tentative Tract Map 37298)	7A333180001
<u>12/8/2017</u>	<u>2/2/2018</u>	Riverside County Transportation Department	Thousand Palms Canyon Road Widening Project	7A333183001
<u>12/5/2017</u>	<u>1/25/2018</u>	Coachella Valley Water District	Highway 86 Domestic Water Transmission Main Phase 2 and Pump Station Project	7A333179001

## **COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

(Frank Gonzalez and Jeong-Hee Lim)

### **Enforcement Homepage Update**

Regional Water Board homepage for Enforcement has been updated, and current and past enforcement actions are accessible at following link:



[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water\\_issues/programs/enforcement/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/enforcement/) . The Enforcement webpage also contains a new enforcement policy, Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) policy and its revision process, and historical SEP projects for Region 7.

### **Current Enforcement Action(s)**

An Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (ACLC) was issued on December 11, 2017 against Seeley County Water District (Discharger) alleging violations of effluent limitations and monitoring and reporting requirement of the NPDES permits. The Discharger has submitted a waiver of 90- day hearing requirement in order to engage in settlement discussions, and the Prosecution team is in the process of scheduling the settlement meeting.

### **Quarterly Enforcement Reports**

Water Code Section 13225, subdivision (k) requires each Regional Water Board, in consultation with the State Water Board, to identify and post on the internet a summary list of all enforcement actions undertaken in that region and the disposition of each action, including any civil penalty assessed. This list must be updated at least quarterly.

During the last quarter, Regional Water Board staff issued one ACLC (\$216,000) and 15 Notice of Non-compliance (NON) letters including one directive. The summary list of all enforcement actions for the last quarter of 2017 is available on

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water\\_issues/programs/enforcement/docs/qtrly\\_rpts/oct\\_dec2017qtr\\_%20rpt.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/enforcement/docs/qtrly_rpts/oct_dec2017qtr_%20rpt.pdf) .

### **CalEPA Environmental Justice Task Force Imperial Valley Initiative** (Maria Davydova)

CALEPA Environmental Justice Task Force (Task Force) coordinates the compliance and enforcement work of CalEPA's boards, departments and office in areas of California that are burdened by multiple sources of pollution. The Task Force facilitates the use of environmental justice considerations in compliance and enforcement programs and enhance communications with community members to maximize benefits in disadvantaged communities. The Task Force has conducted two initiatives in parts of Fresno and Los Angeles with the goal of increasing compliance with environmental laws in those areas.

On January 29, 2018, the Task Force had the first community meeting for Imperial initiative at the City of Brawley. The participants are including: community organization and members, CalEPA Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice, Deputy Secretary for Enforcement, representatives from USEPA Region IX, BDO representatives from Air Resources Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Department of Toxic Substances Control, State Water Board Office of Enforcement and Division of Drinking Water, and Colorado River Basin Water Board. The meeting has an overview of the initiative and including presentation for air, water and pesticide enforcement issues. The major issues identified were: 1) air quality issue from agriculture burning; 2) safe drinking water quality and canal water issues; and 3) pesticide impacts from aerosol spray. Regional Water Board staff, Kai Dunn, joined this meeting on behalf of the Prosecution team, and gave a brief presentation about NPDES program compliance issue, Stormwater issue, Irrigated Land Program efforts and non-confidential enforcement cases.

## **REGULATORY AND LAND DISPOSAL UNIT**

(Unit Chief: Doug Wylie, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E.)

- December 5 - The Executive Officer issued the Notice of Applicability in General Waste Discharge Requirements Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ for the Coachillin Business Park On-Site Wastewater Treatment Plant in Desert Hot Springs. The facility is a proposed 160-acre industrial cannabis cultivation site.
- December 7 - Doug Wylie and staff from the Lahontan Water Board participated in the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Cannabis Cultivation License Application Workshop at the UC Riverside campus in Palm Desert.
- December 7 - Doug Wylie and staff from the State Water Board participated in a California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Sanitary Sewer Collection System Specialty workshop in Coachella
- January 9-11 - Unit staff attended a three-day wastewater and recycled water training in Riverside.
- January 16 - Doug Wylie and State Water Board staff performed an audit of the CVWD sanitary sewer collection system in Palm Desert.
- January 22 - Jose Angel, Doug Wylie, and Scot Stormo met with representatives of the CVWD Water Reclamation Plant 10 (WRP10) in Palm Desert. Steve Bigley and other CVWD staff submitted comments on Tentative Board Order R7-2018-0001 that updates the WRP10 Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Board Order 00-008. Staff is planning to issue tentative WDR Order for the 30-day public comment period in preparation for a hearing on the matter on March 8, 2018.

## SALTON SEA AND SWAMP PROGRAMS

(Jeff Geraci, Senior Environmental Scientist)

### Retrieval of Water Level Probes

R7 SWAMP staff accompanied Department of Fish and Game field crews to collect monitoring probes from 9 rather remote monitoring sites throughout the region over a number of days. The probes were deployed several years ago as part of the Region's bioassessment study for logging water level data for the entire duration. At nearly half the sites, the probes were unrecoverable due to a combination of significant storm events and vandalism. Nonetheless, a great deal of valuable data has been recovered from the probes, which is being used to assess temporal trends of flow as it relates to the biological health of the Region's natural water bodies.

### Salton Sea Science Committee

Staff attended the January 29 SSMP science committee meeting in Coachella. Staff expressed concerns that while the selenium risk is of ecological importance, the toxicity of pesticides is essentially being ignored. Staff added that invertebrates and other benthic organisms are the critical base of the food chain, but that the observed levels of chlorpyrifos, pyrethroid pesticides and other contaminants pose a serious threat to those organisms, thus the potential to impact higher trophic levels. This point was concurred by the representative from the USGS, Doug Barnum.

R7 staff also reminded the committee of an online forum it created for the purpose of agencies sharing information and documents pertaining to the SSMP, and one of the committee leads

committed to promoting the forum for expanded participation. The forum webpage link is:  
<http://saltonseaproject.forumotion.com/>

#### **Tetra-Tech hosted Weekly Charrettes**

At the request of Tetra-Tech (contracted by the State to lead the design/build for the project), RB7 staff has engaged in several charrettes with other agencies and stake holders to discuss the design/build aspects of the Salton Sea restoration, such as selenium targets for wildlife and water quality. Staff has weighed in regularly to assist in developing a sound monitoring and design plan for the new aquatic habitats to be constructed at the New and Alamo River deltas. The meetings are ongoing, typically held every Thursday at 2:00pm.

#### **Salton Sea Science Committee Meeting** (Jeong-Hee Lim)

The role of the Salton Sea Science Committee (Committee) is to provide scientific expertise and guidance on Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) projects and efforts. The Committee meetings are scheduled quarterly. On January 31, 2018, the Committee held a meeting in the city of Coachella. During the meeting, the Committee members were discussed on Committee's role in SSMP process, SSMP habitat design criteria, Science Symposium on Salton Sea, and a new project in New River West area. The Committee members are required to submit the comments on SSMP habitat design criteria by the end of February.

The Biological Field Studies and Sediment Collection, Leach Testing, and Analysis Work Plans were presented for review. The group is requesting a 30 day turn around for review and comment on the work plans. Additionally, chapters 1 and 2 of the Environmental Impact Report were provided for review and comment. Replenishment Facility that is operated and maintained by CVWD and Desert Water Agency (DWA). The purpose of the facility is to replenish the Whitewater River Subbasin with Colorado River Water via the Whitewater River. (CVWD) is requesting to renew and amend a Right-of-Way (ROW) grant from the BLM for the Whitewater River Groundwater

## **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) & SITE CLEANUP PROGRAMS**

(Unit Chief, Joan Stormo, Senior Engineering Geologist)

- December 4<sup>th</sup> - Issued Public Notice for UST case closure for Apple Market One site (Phan Le, WRCE)
- December 4<sup>th</sup> - Reviewed Low Threat Closure Policy (LTCP) case closure summary package for former Gibson Oil in preparation for closure (Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE)
- December 18<sup>th</sup> - Reviewed Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP) grant amendment for Palo Verde Valley Laundry & Cleaners Inc. (Phan Le, WRCE)
- December 18<sup>th</sup> - Drafted response for review of "Additional Site Assessment Workplan for Antunez Autobody" (Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE)
- December 19<sup>th</sup> - Finalized *Path to Closure* activities (including closure documents), for the Callan Oil - Highway 78 tanker spill near Ripley, California. The spill occurred in November 8, 2013, releasing approximately 4500 gallons of petroleum to the roadway and ground surface. Impacted soils were characterized/excavated, and four groundwater monitoring wells installed. Analytical data from the two sampling events (May and August 2017) indicate no impacts to groundwater. [Theresa Kimsey, ES]

- January 17<sup>th</sup> - Participated in Assistant Executive Officers meeting regarding vapor intrusion (Phan Le, WRCE; Theresa Kimsey, ES; Jose Cortez WRCE; Joan Stormo, SEG)
- January 23<sup>th</sup> - Participated in Site Cleanup Program/DoD Roundtable. Discussion focused on Daily Activity Recording and Tracking (DARTS), Source Investigation Workshop, and Groundwater Grants (e.g., prop 1) (Phan Le, WRCE, Joan Stormo, SEG)
- January 24<sup>th</sup> - Participated in a *Joint Execution Team* (JET) meeting via teleconference with claimant for the Former Easy Serve #100828 (940 Imperial Avenue, Calexico), claimant's consultant, and State Water Board. Objective was to assess a path to closure that addresses groundwater contamination and potential soil-vapor threat southwest of the site. (C. Sanford, T. Kimsey and J. Stormo)

#### **Groundwater (Cathy Sanford, EG)**

- January 11<sup>th</sup> - As a cooperating agency, staff attended a stakeholders meeting for the Whitewater Recharge Facility Bureau of Land Management (BLM) permit renewal project. The Coachella Valley Water District

#### **Department of Defense (DOD) (Jose Cortez, WRCE)**

- December 8<sup>th</sup> - Completed Resource Estimation Worksheet for work proposed in fiscal years 2018-2020
- December - Reviewed IR and MRP documents and submitted written comments
- December - 2016-2018 JEP for China Lake Salton Sea TR required update for to review Five-Year Review report.

#### **Office of Emergency Services (OES) Notifications (Jose Cortez, WRCE)**

- December 22<sup>nd</sup> - Responded to Office of Emergency Services (OES) Spill Drill to Colorado River (hypothetical)
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> - Responded to OES gas leak notification for spill (leak) in La Quinta. Gas leak caused fire on surface street

## **ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES**

(Unit Chief, (Hilda Vasquez, Staff Services Mgr.)

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**New Hires**—Scot Stormo, Engineering Geologist, joined the Regional Water Board on November 6, 2017 and Adriana Godinez, Water Resources Control Engineer, joined the Regional Water Board on January 2, 2018. They both work in the Land Disposal Unit under Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE.

**Retirement**—Herb Jackson, Engineering Geologist, retired in December. His last day in the office was December 15, 2017 and his official retirement date was December 16, 2017.

#### **Office Visitors and Public Records Act Request**

During the months of December 2017 and January 2018, the Regional Water Board had 46 visitors and, also received and responded to 11 PRAs. [*Terry Barnes, OT and Soni Wells, AGPA*]

**Board Room Upgrade Update**

The Regional Water Board continues to work with DAS Business Services staff to upgrade the Board Room. A teleconference meeting was held in early December with Business Management, Facilities, and IT to discuss the Dias and Sound System upgrade for the Board Room. Again, a request was submitted with a sketch of what needs to be upgraded. The details of the project will be looked into, however, there are 12 other Priority Projects ahead of us. No time frame of completion was given. [*Mary Castaneda, AGPA*]